

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 19 March 2007, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Species 1: Figures 1-3. Applicants provisionally elect these claims without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's characterizations of the claims or subject matter of the present application. Applicants therefore withdraw, without prejudice, claims 6, 9, 21, 22, 33, 34, 53, 54, and 63. Claims 29 and 67-70 have been cancelled, claims 1, 52, and 55 have been amended, and new claims 71-74 have been added.


As stated in MPEP § 803, "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." In the present case, Applicants respectfully submit that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims, such that a search and examination of each of the claims of the present application can be made without serious burden. Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the pending Restriction Requirement. Applicant preserves its right to request rejoinder of withdrawn claims from above under 37 C.F.R. § 1.141 and MPEP § 821.04 upon allowance of any provisionally elected generic claim.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite the handling of this matter.

Date: 21 MAY 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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